

JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE

Activity: Construction Planning

	1999 Enacted To Date	2000 Budget Request	Change From 1999 (+/-)
Construction Planning	16,370	10,195	-6,175
Total Requirements \$(000)	16,370	10,195	-6,175

* House Report 105-585, accompanying the FY 1999 appropriations act (Public Law 105-277), allowed up to \$4.5 million in this activity to be used for the new Pre-Design and Supplementary Services activity.

AUTHORIZATION

16 U.S.C. 1

OVERVIEW

To acquire archeological, historical, environmental, and engineering information and prepare comprehensive designs, working drawings, and specification documents needed to construct or rehabilitate facilities in National Park Service areas.

APPLICABLE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MISSION GOALS

- Ia Natural and cultural resources and associated values are protected, restored and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context.
- Ib The National Park Service contributes to knowledge about natural and cultural resources and associated values; management decisions about resources and visitors are based on adequate scholarly and scientific information.
- IIa Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity, and quality of park facilities, services, and appropriate recreational opportunities.
- IIIc Assisted through Federal funds and programs, the protection of recreational opportunities is achieved through formal mechanisms to ensure continued access for public recreation use.

Activity Description

Construction Planning..... \$10,195,000

Construction Planning, also known as project design, includes the preparation of preliminary and final architectural, landscape and engineering drawings and specifications necessary for the construction of utilities, roads and structures. Under this activity final construction drawings and specifications are prepared and final cost estimates and contract bidding documents are developed. Without completion of these tasks, actual construction awards could never be made. The funding level proposed for construction planning in FY 2000 is a decrease from the level being requested in FY1999 and is in keeping with National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) recommendations that National Park Service construction planning not exceed 10 percent of the final construction cost estimates for each construction project. The great majority of project design activity will be accomplished by architectural/engineering contractors. The amount requested for FY 2000 is approximately 10 percent of the total FY 2000 line item construction request. The funding level requested will enable the Service to keep pace with the large line item construction program backlog of non-road reconstruction and replacement projects on the recently revised Servicewide Construction Project Listing.

Construction planning criteria can change from year to year, but generally, priority consideration is normally given in the following order based upon the recommendations of the NAPA report :

Construction and Major Maintenance/Construction Planning

1. Planning and design for previously appropriated line item construction projects.
2. Planning and design for line item construction projects appropriated in the current fiscal year.
3. Planning and design for Congressionally added projects in the current fiscal year.
4. Projects or phased components of projects of the National Park Service's 5-year Construction Program scheduled and approved for funding by the Service' Development Advisory Board (DAB) within the next two fiscal years.

The Administration is reviewing options for making improvements to the area of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House in order to temporarily improve the aesthetic appearance of the avenue for the President's inauguration in 2001. During FY 1999, the National Park Service will consult with, and ensure the approval of, the Congressional Appropriations Committees and other interested parties, including District of Columbia officials, on the design of the improvements proposed for the avenue. Once agreement is reached, the Department will submit a request to the Appropriation Committees to use FY 1999 funds for design work and a budget amendment for use of FY 2000 funds for construction.

Approved project fund allocations are made via funding advices by the Washington Office to the Regional Office or Service Center performing the work, or to the office coordinating the performance of the work in cases where planning is contracted out to architectural/engineering firms.

The Park Service will also increase efforts to prepare capital asset plans for major construction projects, consistent with OMB Circular A-11 and the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act. These plans will identify the cost, schedule, and performance goals of proposed projects and then track the project's progress in meeting those goals.